

Licensing Requirements:

- You must purchase a license if you are 17 years of age or older. **If you are under 17, you may fish without a license, but you are required to observe all fishing rules and regulations.**
- You must have the license in your possession when fishing and the identification used to purchase that license.
- Your fishing license is valid from March 1, 2005 through March 31, 2006.

To purchase a fishing license, you must have:

- A valid Michigan Driver License.
- A valid Michigan ID Card (issued by the Secretary of State) with additional proof of Michigan residency, such as a Michigan voter registration card.
- A DNR Sportcard (issued by license dealers). If the information on your DNR Sportcard from a previous year is still accurate, you may continue to use it.

To qualify for a resident license, you must:

- Have a permanent residence in Michigan, or
- Be a full-time student at a Michigan college or university, or
- Serve full time in the U.S. Military and be officially stationed in Michigan.

The ownership of land in Michigan by itself is not qualification for a resident license.

The following special provisions exist:

Residents serving in the Armed Forces: Persons serving in the U.S. Military, who, at the time of enlistment, were residents of Michigan and have maintained residence status for the purposes of obtaining a driver license or voting and who are stationed outside the state, may purchase a resident all-species license for \$1. Applicants must present proof of military status and leave papers when applying for the discounted licenses. This license, available at DNR Operations Service Centers (see p. 24) and at license retail outlets statewide, is valid for up to two weeks during an open season. The license buyer can designate the exact fishing period.

Residents who are blind or disabled: A resident who is declared legally blind or a resident who has been determined by the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs to be permanently and totally disabled and entitled to veteran benefits at the 100% rate (with proof of same) is eligible to purchase ANY of the senior fishing licenses.

Mentally disabled persons: and residents of a home for the aged (licensed under the Public Health Code) may fish without a license if they are a member of a group, and accompanied by one or more licensed adults who possess a permit issued by the DNR. Permits are available at DNR Operations Service Centers (see p.24).

Lawful Fishing Methods

Bait: Any fish (except lampreys, live carp, and goldfish) and frogs may be used as bait when legally taken and possessed. Wigglers (mayfly nymphs) and other aquatic nymphs and larvae may also be used for bait, but may not be taken from any trout stream except for personal use on the same stream. Crayfish may be taken for bait for personal use. See special exceptions on Michigan-Wisconsin Boundary Waters (p. 12).

Bow Fishing: Bows may be used on certain waters for certain species. See Table 5 (p. 11).

Dip Nets: Dip nets may be used for bowfin, carp, gar, smelt, and suckers in non-trout streams. A permit is required from a DNR office if equipment is to be left overnight. See Table 4, Netting (p. 10).

Gaffs: Gaffs may be used to help land lawfully hooked fish on all waters **except** on a trout stream.

Gear Restrictions: On all streams (including tributaries to the Great Lakes) from August 1 through May 31, it shall be unlawful to use multi-pointed hooks exceeding 3/8 inch between point and shank and/or single-pointed hooks exceeding 1/2 inch between point and shank. Also on all streams during this period it shall be unlawful to use lures exceeding one ounce. The Detroit R., St. Clair R. and St. Marys R. are exempt from these restrictions.

Hand Nets: Hand nets may be used to help land lawfully hooked fish. During April, May, and June, hand nets larger than 5 1/2 feet in circumference or having a handle exceeding 14 inches in length **may not** be used or possessed on designated trout streams except as provided in Table 4 (p. 10). Hand nets may also be used to take bowfin, carp, gar, smelt, and suckers. See Table 4, General Netting Regulations (p. 10).

Hook and Line Fishing: Fish so taken must be hooked in the mouth. Fish not hooked in the mouth must be returned to the water immediately. No more than two lines per person (including tip-ups) nor more than four hooks or lures may be used. **Except:** on L. Michigan, L. Huron, L. Superior and the St. Marys R., those persons in the act of trolling while targeting trout/salmon may use 3 rods/lines and attach no more than six hooks total on all lines. *All hooks attached to an artificial bait or "night crawler harness" are counted as one hook. Hooks must be baited or attached to an artificial bait. You

may use any number of hooks on one line for taking smelt in recognized smelt waters. Tip-ups and similar devices used for ice fishing must show the angler's name and address. All lines must be under immediate control. Hook size regulations exist on certain streams (see Exceptions to General Regulations by County (p. 14-18).

Hoop Nets: May be used for burbot only on certain waters Dec. 15 - last day of Feb. Permit needed from a DNR office (ask for list FO-232).

Minnows For Personal Use: Minnows for personal use only may be taken with hook and line, seines, dip nets, and traps with a valid fishing license. In trout streams minnows may only be taken during the open season for trout by hook and line or minnow traps. Minnows may not be taken from Big Glen L., Hatlem Cr. (Leelanau Co.), Portage L., Torch L., the North and South Portage Canal (Houghton Co.), in that portion of L. Superior west of Big Bay Point or any of their tributaries for 1/2 mile above their mouths. Gear restrictions are as follows: Seines must not be over 12 feet by 4 feet; hand nets not over 8 feet square and without sides or walls; and minnow traps not over 24 inches long. Minnow traps must bear user's name and address. Cast nets (not exceeding 8 feet in diameter without walls or sides) may be used to take minnows, alewife, smelt, and shad in the Great Lakes, L. St. Clair, and the Detroit R., St. Clair R., and St. Marys R.

Spearing: Hand, rubber, or spring-propelled spears may be used for certain species. See Table 5 (p. 11).

It Is Unlawful To:

Possess or transport any live transgenic (genetically engineered) organisms or the following nonnative fish: bighead carp (*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*), black carp (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*), silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*), grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idellus*), members of the family Channidae and genus *Channa*, (known as snakeheads), bitterling (*Rhodeus sericeus*), Ide (*Leuciscus idus*), Japanese weatherfish (*Misgurnus anguillicaudatus*), rudd (*Scardinius erythrophthalmus*), tench (*Tinca tinca*), Eurasian ruffe (*Gymnocephalus cernuus*), tubenose goby (*Proterorhinus marmoratus*), or round goby (*Neogobius melanostomus*).

Import, plant or transplant white amur (grass carp), live game fish, or viable eggs of game fish.

Buy or sell fish or parts of fish, reptiles, amphibians, or crayfish taken under a sport fishing license.

Take fish for the sole purpose of removing the eggs.

Take or attempt to take freshwater mussels (clams or other bivalves) whether living or dead, including the shell or parts thereof (except zebra mussels) from any waters of the state except under provisions of a cultural or scientific investigation permit from the DNR.

Take, attempt to take, or possess, any threatened or endangered species, except as authorized by the DNR. For more information see <http://web4.msue.msu.edu/mnfi/data/specialanimals.cfm>.

Possess or sell a multi-pointed hook with a weight permanently attached.

Possess illegally taken fish or mutilated fish that cannot be measured or identified.

Possess more than the Michigan limit when fishing in Michigan waters even if holding licenses from more than one state or province.

Commercially take, possess, or sell rusty crayfish (*Orconectes rusticus*) in Michigan.

Fish for any species or possess fishing devices along a stream closed to fishing.

Fish with your hands, firearms, explosives, crossbows, setlines, poisons, or methods other than lawful fishing methods.

Fish anywhere in a fish ladder or within 100 feet of a lamprey control weir.

Use a net to take a fish within 100 feet of a dam (you may use a landing net to secure a legally hooked fish).

Use a seine for any species other than minnows.

Use cast nets in any inland water.

Possess a spear, gaff, or bow/arrow along a trout stream at any time.

Shoot reptiles or amphibians with a firearm (including spring, air, or gas propelled).

Have a weight rigidly attached to a multi-pointed hook; or suspended from a multi-point hook; or suspended below any hook *unless* the hook is on a dropper line (a leader) that is at least 3" long.

Deposit litter, fish offal, or any foreign matter, in any waters of the state or on any lands, private or public.

Take or attempt to take fish outside of the open season for that species.

Commercially harvest wigglers from any state waters from June 1 to September 1.

Snag fish or retain a fish not hooked in the mouth.

Free Fishing Weekends
June 11 & 12, 2005
February 18 & 19, 2006